



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2003

Contact: Joe Tash (619) 595-4627

NEW COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER NAMED

Dr. Glenn N. Wagner's Experience Includes Military Service, Law Enforcement

Dr. Glenn N. Wagner, director of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C., will become the County of San Diego's Chief Medical Examiner when he retires from the U.S. Navy in June.

The appointment was announced today by W. Harold Tuck Jr., Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the County's Public Safety Group. Wagner will replace Dr. Brian Blackbourne, who is retiring after 13 years at the County.

Wagner is a Navy Captain, and in his present post, he is the senior forensic pathologist for the Department of Defense. His military career spanned 33 years, and prior to that, he worked as a police officer with the Philadelphia Police Department. He has conducted or supervised more than 8,000 autopsies, and he has extensive experience in state and federal courts as an expert witness.

"I'm delighted to come back and serve the County and the citizens," said Wagner.

Wagner is a graduate of Temple University and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. During the late 1970s, he completed an internship and residency at the Naval Regional Medical Center, San Diego. At the time, his wife, Joan, worked for the County of San Diego as a social worker.

The Medical Examiner's office investigates and determines the cause of death in accidents, homicides and other unnatural deaths, along with certain apparent natural deaths. Wagner said the information gained by these investigations can also prove useful in formulating health policy, to help protect and enhance the health of County residents.

During his career, Wagner has taken part in a number of major death investigations, including the Jonestown-Guyana mass suicide, the Challenger space shuttle explosion and the USS Cole bombing.

###